

CONTEMPORARY FANTASY DRAWINGS

FROM THE COLLECTION OF JOHN D. MERRIAM

F-A
NC
95
.C66
1985x

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Boston, MA 02116

CONTEMPORARY FANTASY DRAWINGS

FROM THE COLLECTION OF JOHN D. MERRIAM

CATALOGUE OF AN EXHIBITION HELD IN THE
WIGGIN GALLERY • BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
SEPTEMBER 5 THROUGH OCTOBER 26 • 1985

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Designed by Richard Zonghi

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Foreword

I N recent years, the Boston Public Library has held four exhibitions from the collection of John D. Merriam. This continuing collaboration has made available in the central library in Copley Square a profusion of images from an extraordinarily rich private collection.

Through all these exhibitions runs the intense interest of John Merriam in fantasy in art. The series began in 1980 with *The Artist & the Child*, one of the largest exhibitions in the history of the Library. A detailed and attractive catalogue, still in print, and highly recommended to anyone who may not possess it, records 453 works, most of them original drawings for children's books, some of them printed books. Many drawings are illustrated. The exhibition was held in numerous exhibition spaces throughout the Library.

In 1983, *Designs by Boris Artzybasheff* were displayed in the Wiggin Gallery. Draper Hill, the caricaturist, collector, and historian, lectured on Artzybasheff. In 1984, *Original Woodcuts and Lithographs by M. C. Escher* were shown, and Dr. Arthur L. Loeb, Senior Lecturer on Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University, lectured on "M. C. Escher: Implications of the Impossible." The 1985 exhibition, *Contemporary Fantasy Drawings*, gained a special dimension because all the artists are living, and many of them are at work in Boston. Some are teachers. The frequent presence of students, studying the exhibition and making drawings of details, enlivened the gallery. Behind all this activity in the Wiggin Gallery, serving always as the motive force, the co-

ordinator, is Sinclair Hitchings, Keeper of Prints. The Library extends thanks to Sinclair Hitchings for his continuing leadership in the acquisition, interpretation, and exhibition of prints; the Library extends thanks, as well, to John Merriam for joining forces with the Library to carry forward its educational mission.

Arthur Curley

*Director and Librarian
Boston Public Library*

Personal Visions

FANTASY in art is a highly personal form of expression. Many members of the public today would be puzzled, perhaps repelled, but probably fascinated by an exhibition of the work of Hieronymus Bosch (died 1516), subject of many books, whose works of almost five centuries ago can symbolize the long history of fantasy in art. In every generation, fantasy is there, offering artists an open door to the imagination.

Today, truth frequently seems stranger than fiction, as scientists unravel the secrets of genetics, astronauts walk in space, and robot submarines explore the deepest reaches of the sea. The imagination of humankind, however, remains full of surprises. The illustrations in the present catalogue will not necessarily remind you of any artist of the past. John Merriam's collection suggests the need for an art book by a trade publisher exploring the theme of fantasy in art in a more comprehensive way, and in greater detail, than available books do now.

John Merriam has patronized young artists and advocated their work. Over the years, he has lent exhibitions of fantasy drawings from his collection to the Copley Society, the Brockton Art Center—Fuller Memorial, the Concourse Art Gallery of the State Street Bank, the St. Botolph Club, the Sharon Arts Center, the Boston Athenaeum, the Rhode Island School of Design, and other institutions. For the exhibition at the Boston Public Library in 1985, he personally chose the drawings and assigned them places in the gallery. Through him, many people have been able to see these personal visions.

Sinclair H. Hitchings

Keeper of Prints

Boston Public Library



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<https://archive.org/details/contemporaryfant00bost>

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1 *Reflections*
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- 9 *Tread Lightly Angel* by Frederick C. Davis, Crime Club
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- 12 Untitled
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- 33 *Goo Goo Muck*
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- 52 *Wolf Bird Baby*
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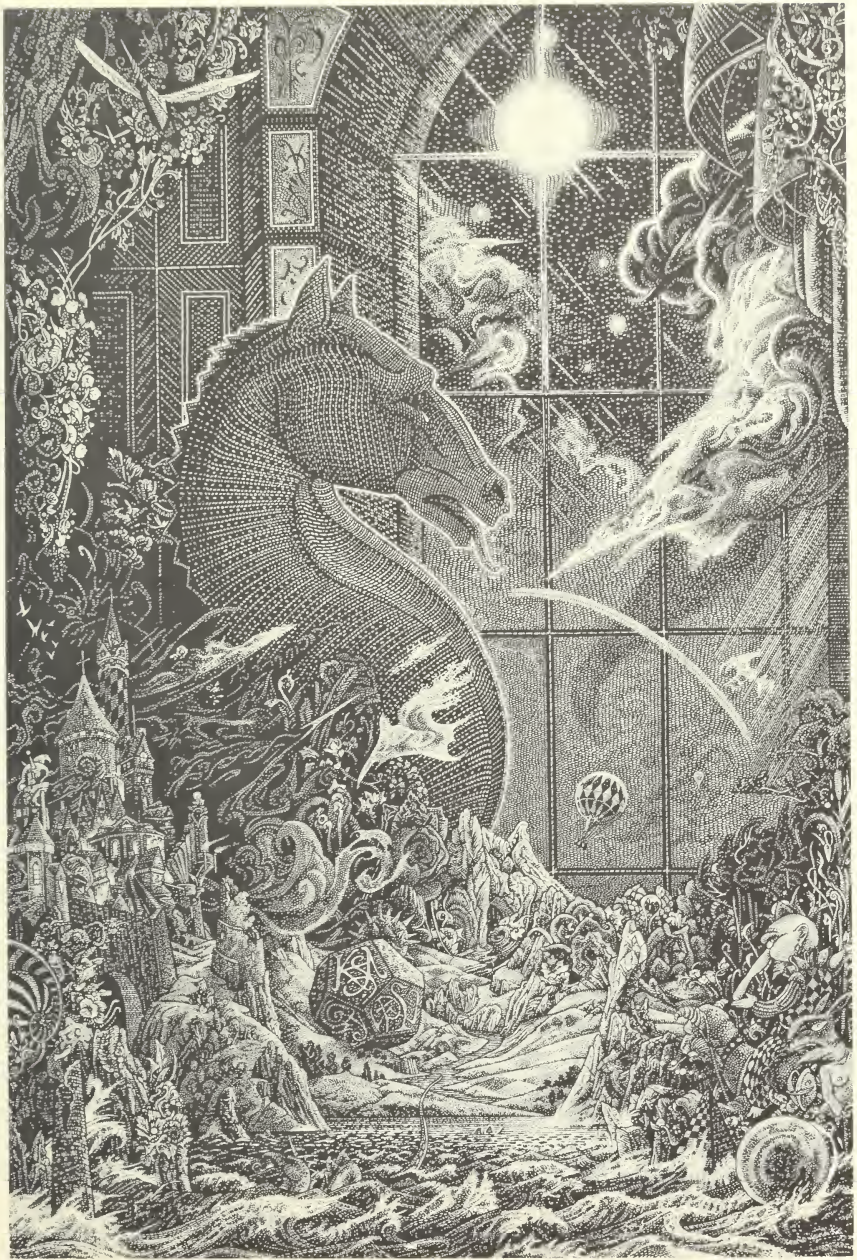
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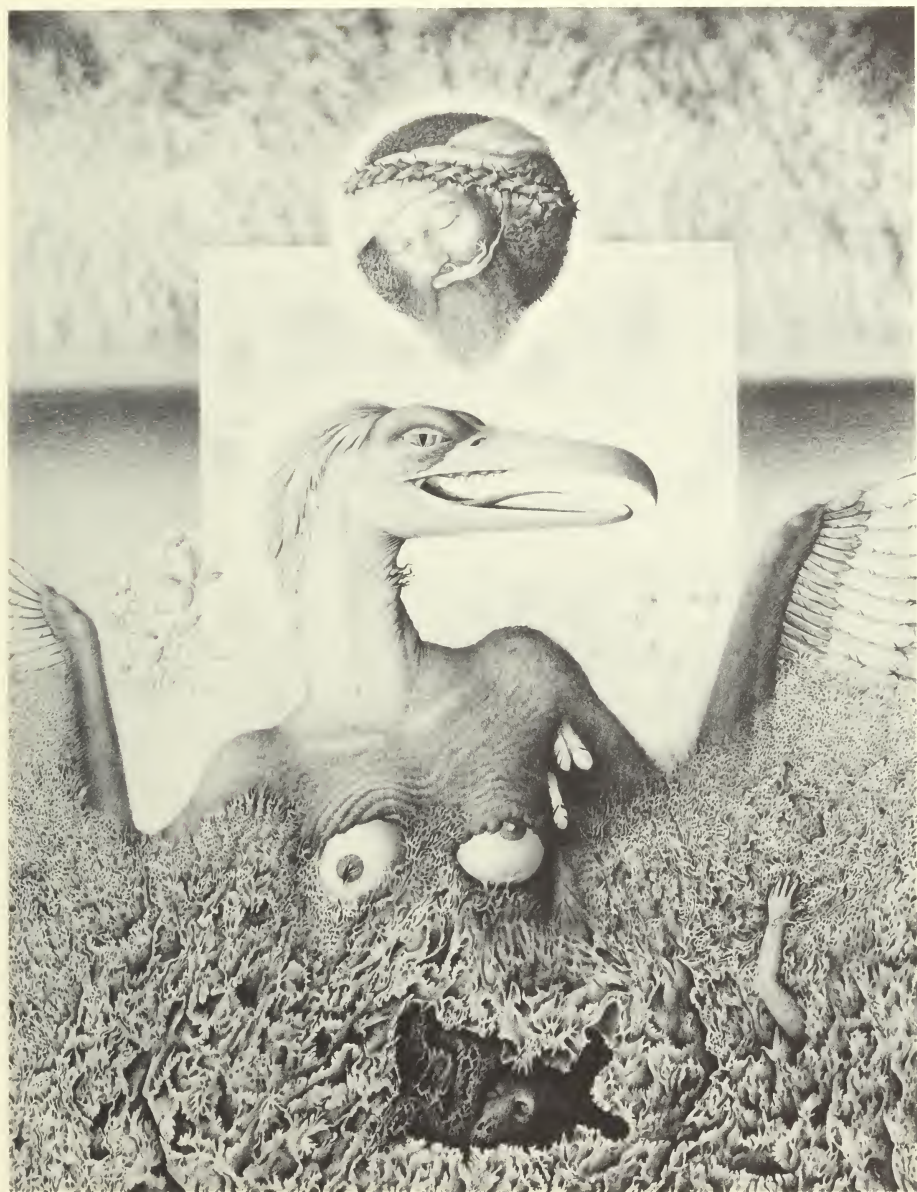
- 55 *Space-Shot*
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31 Eric Knight. *Checkerboard Netherlands*. Pen and ink.



18 George Dergalis. *The Evolution of Eve*. Pen and ink.



49 Frederick Spencer. *Vulture Mother*. Graphite.



26 Thomas Grabosky. *Self-Portrait: The 21st Man*. Graphite.



51 Mark Spencer. *Gitchee Goomee Ferry*. Graphite.



38 Patricia Faenza Lucas. *Water Babies, The Egg of Friends and Relations*. Graphite.

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